

Dog Waste Summary Report

December 6, 2017

Jeff and Greg

Findings:

1. Dog waste on conservation lands continues to be observed, though the efforts of the NRC and responsible dog owners appear to have decreased the amount of dog waste left onsite.
2. The dog walking community feels that placing barrels at more conservation lands will enhance compliance. This is borne out in the literature, where a Nebraska study concluded that dog waste removal was at 80% where barrels were provided.
3. A summer study of a Sudbury Valley Trustees property found that nearly 90 instances of dog waste were observed, even with bags and a waste barrel present.
4. A consistent dog waste removal policy amongst all Town lands, not just conservation land, can lessen confusion for dog walkers.
5. Education around the importance of dog waste effects on wildlife and habitat and removal is as important as installing barrels.

Being mindful of good management practices, there should be proactive measures created before the issues get worse and degradation of our conservation lands becomes acute. Dog waste degrades our conservation trails and woods. To prevent dog waste effects from becoming acute we advise the following:

- All dog walkers are required to pick up and dispose of the dog waste in receptacles where provided or take off site during all seasons.
- All dog walkers must carry at least one refuse bag per dog

- Waste receptacles and bag dispensers shall be installed on heavily used or sensitive conservation lands as recommended by the Natural Resource Staff with Commission oversight.
- Barrels are to be labelled “for dog waste only” with a fine for other waste being dropped off.
- Engage in education of the school age population in changing behavior to improve compliance with dog waste pickup.
- Fines shall be enforced to the maximum allowed by the Select Board for violation of these regulations including loss of privilege to use the properties.
- A fee increase in annual dog licenses, with coordination with the Select Board, shall be implemented to fund the above expenses and policing by the Natural Resource Dept. and/or dog officer. Amount to be determined.